

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083526
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/P:DAKORN/IO/UNP:DMANGAN
APPROVED BY NEA - MR. VELIOTES
INR - HSAU ERS (DRAFT)
H - R. A. FLATEN
S/S-O - TGMARTIN
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER

-----069669 320001Z /70

O 312210Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 083526

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IS, LE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON

1. ISSUE OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON IS BEGINNING TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 083526

MOVE TO THE FORE HERE AND UNLESS ADDRESSED SOON IS LIKELY
TO BECOME DIFFICULT. YOU SHOULD APPROACH WEIZMAN AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE AND MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- PRESSURE IS BUILDING UP AT THE UN ON THE ISSUE OF ISRAELI
WITHDRAWAL FROM LEBANON AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AS EARLY
AS NEXT WEEK WE COULD BE FACED WITH PRESSURES FOR A SECURITY

COUNCIL MEETING AND A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ISRAEL FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE TERMS OF SC RESOLUTION 425.

-- WE ARE ALREADY BEGINNING TO HEAR FROM TROOP CONTRIBUTORS OF THEIR UNEASE AT THE FACT THAT ISRAEL HAS NOT ANNOUNCED ANY TROOP DRAW-DOWNS OR MADE ANY COMMITMENTS AS TO A WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE. THE SWEDES IN PARTICULAR ARE CONCERNED AT THE HIGH RISK SITUATION INVOLVED IN BEING TIGHTLY SANDWICHED BETWEEN OPPOSING FORCES.

-- GROWING RELUCTANCE BY TROOP CONTRIBUTORS NOW IN INITIAL STAGES OF UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT COUPLED WITH A SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE COULD SERIOUSLY MUDDY THE WATERS AND SET BACK OUR

EFFORT TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM TOWARDS CREATION OF AN EFFECTIVE FORCE AND EXTENSION OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY IN THE SOUTH.

-- WE BELIEVE ISRAEL SHARES OUR INTEREST IN AN EFFECTIVE UNIFIL AND SHOULD BE WILLING TO TAKE FURTHER STEPS TO HELP IT ALONG.

-- ADDITIONALLY, DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ARE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON APRIL 4 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ON RESOLUTIONS BY SENATOR ABOUREZK CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF SC RES. SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 083526

425. (TEXT OF ABOUREZK RESOLUTION SENT BY SEPTTEL.) THUS SOME TOUGH QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED ABOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PLANS AND SITUATION MIGHT BE DIFFICULT FOR U.S. AND GOI IF THERE IS IMPRESSION THAT ISRAEL IS STALLING AND UNWILLING TO MOVE FORWARD ON WITHDRAWAL.

-- WHAT IS NEEDED IS NOT A DETAILED AND FINAL WITHDRAWAL SCHEDULE, BUT GENERAL TARGET DATES FOR VARIOUS STAGES OF WITHDRAWAL (E.G., ON APRIL....., AND WITH THE DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL UNITS TO....., 2000 ISRAELI TROOPS WILL BE WITHDRAWN; ON APRIL....., ANOTHER 1000 MEN WILL RETURN TO ISRAEL, ETC.). ISRAELIS HAVE ALREADY TAKEN A NUMBER OF TROOPS OUT OF LEBANON. SPECIFIC PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON NUMBERS INVOLVED WOULD BE HELPFUL. SO WOULD INFORMATION ON ANY AREAS ISRAEL OCCUPIED EARLIER BUT HAS NOW GIVEN UP.

2. AS YOU KNOW, SC RES 425 DOES NOT LINK THE CALL FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL WITH DECISION REGARDING ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFIL. WHILE IN PRACTICE WE WOULD LIKE PHASING IN AND TAKEOVER OF UNIFIL SYNCHRONIZED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE WITH WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI FORCES, NEITHER ISRAELIS NOR

WE CAN POSE THIS AS A CONDITION, AND WITHDRAWAL IS IN ANY EVENT REQUIRED. THIS IS POINT YOU SHOULD MAKE IF ISRAELIS RAISE OBJECTION THAT THEY ARE BEING ASKED TO SET A TIMETABLE FOR WITHDRAWAL BEFORE UNIFIL IS IN PLACE AND WITHOUT ASSURANCES AS TO ITS EFFECTIVENESS. FURTHER POINT YOU CAN MAKE IN THIS REGARD IS THAT CLEARLY WITHDRAWAL CAN- NOT BE CONTINGENT ON ESTABLISHMENT OF IDEAL SECURITY SITU- ATION. WE WILL AT SOME POINT REACH STAGE WHEN DISAD- VANTAGES OF CONTINUED ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON WILL OUTWEIGH SECURITY ADVANTAGES OF PRESENCE THERE. YOU CAN REMIND ISRAELIS THAT WE FORESAW AND DIS- CUSSED WITH THEM IN SOME DETAIL EVEN BEFORE PASSAGE OF RES. 425 PROBLEMS THAT PROLONGED OCCUPATION WOULD RAISE AND NEED FOR ISRAELI AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT CON- SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 083526

DITIONS (SECSTATE 067617, MARCH 16, 068721, MARCH 17).
3. WOULD APPRECIATE WHATEVER YOU CAN GIVE US BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS MONDAY, APRIL 3, THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO DEPART- MENT OFFICERS IN THEIR APPEARANCE MORNING APRIL 4 BEFORE SFRC. OF COURSE, ANYTHING ISRAELIS WERE PREPARED TO SAY THEMSELVES ALONG THESE LINES ON THE PUBLIC RECORD WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH OUR PROBLEMS AS WELL AS ASSISTING US IN FENDING OFF RENEWED SC DEBATE.

4. IN CONVEYING ABOVE TO ISRAELIS YOU SHOULD DRAW ATTEN- TION TO REPORT CONTAINED IN USUN 1177 TO THE EFFECT THAT KUWAIT MAY CALL FOR SC MEETING AS EARLY AS APRIL 3. COOPER

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Message Attributes

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